United Nations S/2016/906

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the false claims set out in the identical letters dated 12 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel, the occupying Power, addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/777), I should like to convey to you the following information:

As it has for nearly half a century, Israel continues to occupy the Syrian Golan in stark violation of all authoritative international resolutions that call on Israel, the occupying Power, to halt its oppressive practices against Syrian citizens who are living under occupation and to withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

Since the start of the events in Syria, Israel, the occupying Power, has added to its record of acts of aggression and violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and Security Council resolutions, particularly those resolutions concerning counter-terrorism. It has done so by providing all forms of support to armed terrorist groups in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan, including to the Nusrah Front, which is on the Security Council list of terrorist entities. Israel has provided the members of those groups with logistical and medical support, communicated with them across the ceasefire line and facilitated their movement from the southernmost point of the area of separation to its north. All of those violations have been documented in United Nations reports. Indeed, in many instances, those violations have included direct military intervention and the provision of supporting fire to the armed terrorist groups on numerous pretexts, including shells striking the occupied side of the Syrian Golan. As everyone is aware, those shells were fired by the armed terrorist groups themselves, with the knowledge of and in coordination with the Israeli occupying forces.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic notes that it had informed the United Nations forces commander that it had nothing to do with the firing of the shells; the shells were fired by the armed terrorist groups in order to create a pretext for the Israeli occupying forces to provide those groups with supporting fire when they attack Syrian law enforcement forces. Following is a summary of some of the violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and Security Council resolutions that are being committed by Israel:

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- Israeli occupying forces have continued to communicate and coordinate with the leaders of the armed terrorist groups and to provide them with support;
- The terrorists have been allowed to erect a four-metre high earthen berm inside occupied territory, from Hamidiyah to Jubbata al-Khashab, in order to facilitate the provision by Israel of logistical and medical support to the armed terrorist groups;
- Israel has illegally opened passages and built gates along the technical fence, in order to communicate with armed terrorists;
- The Israeli Government held a provocative meeting in the occupied Syrian Golan and made statements at the time that are contrary to Security Council resolutions;
- Israel, in collusion with armed terrorist groups, has been attempting to empty the Wadi Yarmuk and Wadi al-Ruqqad areas in the Dar'a countryside of their population. It has been pushing residents to leave those areas by enticing them with offers of assistance to migrate to Western and African countries, and offering all necessary assistance to make that possible;
- Israel has been digging for artefacts in the villages of Burayqah and Bi'r Ajam, which lie east of the ceasefire line in the area of separation;
- Israel has been drilling for oil in the occupied Syrian Golan.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, to act rapidly in order to end Israeli violations immediately. It also calls on the Organization and the Security Council to put pressure on Israel to implement the relevant resolutions of the Council, particularly resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), and compel Israel to withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative